

The EEA and Norway Grants in a shifting European landscape

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Goals and priorities

The EEA and Norway Grants aim to:

- reduce social and economic disparities
- strengthen bilateral relations

based on common values and principles


through an allocation of €3,268 billion (€1,805 EEA Grants and €1,463 Norway Grants)



Green transition



Programmes



**Democracy,
Rule of Law
and Human
Rights**

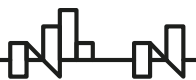


**Social inclusion
and resilience**



3 EEA and Norway Grants Funds

- **Fund for Capacity Building and Cooperation with International Partner Organisations – IPO Fund**
democracy, rule of law, and human rights
- **Fund for Social Dialogue and Decent Work– SDDW (Norway Grants)**
fair working conditions, workers’ rights, and social dialogue; Global fund in all Norway Grants Beneficiary States (no country-allocation)
- **Civil Society Fund – CSF**



Civil Society Fund – CSF

The Civil Society Fund aims to support a vibrant and resilient civil society protecting and promoting democracy, the rule of law, and human rights.

Fund Operator:

Bodossaki Foundation
SolidarityNow

Country specific focus areas:

- Countering gender-based violence
- Inclusion and empowerment of refugees and migrants
- Inclusion and empowerment of Roma





**Horizontal issues within EEA and Norway Grants –
mainstreaming the values, gender equality and digitalisation**



Value-based funding of the Grants



Democracy, Rule of Law and Human Rights are interdependent

Our shared values

- Respect for human dignity
- Freedom
- Democracy
- Equality
- Rule of law
- Respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities



A human rights-based approach entails a focus on results that are in line with international human rights norms and standards...



...and promotes a participatory process.



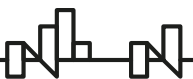
In other words: It emphasizes **how we** get to the results, not just **what** results we aim for.



Enabling Europe's digital transition



- Digitalisation will be mainstreamed and form part of all relevant programme areas in the Blue Book
- Digitalisation is a key driver of social and economic development, yet comes with both benefits and challenges
- European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles guides the work



Information integrity – a key focus area

Exponential rise in disinformation and information manipulation seen as threat to democracy.

Aims:

- strengthen information integrity
- build individual & collective resilience against information manipulation

Safeguarding democracy through advancing information integrity

Island Liechtenstein Norway grants grants
2021 - 2028



Across Europe, the exponential rise in disinformation and information manipulation is challenging the foundations of democracy, rule of law and human rights. Fueled by geopolitical tensions, interference from authoritarian actors, and rapidly evolving technologies, these threats exploit the vulnerabilities of open societies.

A values-based approach

The EU has adopted a whole-of-government approach, combining tools such as the East StratCom Task Force and the European Digital Media Observatory with landmark regulations like the Digital Services Act (2023), the AI Act (2024), and the European Media Freedom Act (2025). These efforts aim to hold platforms accountable, empower users, and build societal resilience.

Island, Liechtenstein and Norway, through the EEA and Norway Grants, offer a unique, values-based financial mechanism rooted in European solidarity. The Grants

support European efforts to enhance information integrity as part of the core priority area "Democracy, rule of law and human rights". The approach is grounded in key democratic and human rights principles: Every person must have equal access to reliable information, be protected from harmful content, and be able to participate meaningfully in shaping the information landscape. The Grants promote transparency, equality and non-discrimination, accountability, and access to trustworthy information, especially for those most vulnerable to manipulation and exclusion.

Building democratic resilience

The Grants' efforts aim to span the entire information chain:



Promoting information integrity and addressing threats posed by disinformation and information manipulation through contributing to supporting **government reforms** in the area.



Strengthening **societal resilience** to disinformation and information manipulation.



Promoting **ethical use of technology**, responsible AI, and regulatory alignment with EU policies.



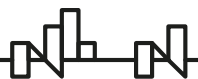
Supporting **independent media**, fact-checking networks and public sector digital literacy.



Embedding **critical thinking** in schools, adult education and cultural projects, especially in underserved regions.



Countering disinformation targeting specific issues and groups such as **elections, minorities, climate action and public health**.





Thank you!

